Docket No.: HO-P02080US1 (PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:
Matsuda et al.

Customer No. 26271 (10025547)

Application No.: 10/041,081

Group Art Unit: 1642

Filed: January 7, 2002

Examiner: not yet assigned

For: DITERPENE-PRODUCING UNICELLULAR ORGANISM

FIRST PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Box Missing Parts
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified U.S. patent application as follows:

In the Specification

Please substitute the below amended paragraphs for paragraphs 91 and 155 of the specification.

Paragraph 91:

The representative example employed herein was a sterol uptake control mutant (*upc*$^-$) that was isolated *via* ethylmethanesulfonate mutagenesis from wild-type *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* (Lewis *et al.*, 1998). The sterol uptake control *UPC2* allele *upc2-1* (SEQ ID NO:399) increases the metabolic flux of sterol biosynthesis. It was originally cloned by calcium sensitivity, and the protein contains a DNA binding motif. The *upc2-1* allele confers Erg$^-$ Hem$^+$ prototrophy and is a semi-dominant mutation. The mutation is a point mutation that results in an Asp residue instead of a Gly residue at amino acid 888. The *upc2-1* allele (Crowley *et al.*, 1998; Leak *et al.*, 1999; both incorporated by reference in their entirety